services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is for the airlines to provide air services to specific places including Bilaspur depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route disperal guidelines issued by Government.

Reduction in interest rates on Small Savings

190. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Federation of Postal Employees' Union had protested on January 6, 1999, against Government' decision to reduce the rates of interest for all the schemes of small savings, including

term deposits and Indira Vikas and Krishi Vikas Patras;

(b) if so, the details of their protest and Government's reaction and response thereto; and

(c) the total estimated annual collections through such small savings; and how far these savings are likely to be diverted to her unwholesome avenues like chit funds, mutual funds and lotteries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) the total estimated net collections of small savings including Public Provident Fund during 1998-99 are Rs. 29000 crore. Small savings schemes continue to carry attractive returns, substantial tax benefits, easy liquidity terms and Government of India guarantee. Therefore, investor confidence will continue in small saving schemes and diversion to other avenues is not expected.

Funds for Promotion of Tourism in States

*191. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the State-wise allocation of funds earmarked for various States for promoting tourism during this year;

(b) the names of the States, who have requested for the grant of financial assistance indicating the names of the schemes under which the assistance has been sought; and

(c) the details of the action taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANATH KUMAR): (a) to (c) No fund is earmarked Statewise. Each year the Ministry of Tourism prioritises projects for central financial assistance in consultation with State Governments. The State-wise details of projects prioritised for 1998-99 are given in the Statement. *(See* below).

The Central Financial is provided for the following tourism infrastructure projects.

- Tourist Complex/Tourist Bunglows/ 2Motels/Beach Centres
- Yatri Niwas/Yatrikas (for group tourist)
- Tourist Reception Centre
- Wayside Amenities
- Upgradation-Cum-Expansion of exisiting tourist facilitie
- Health Centres
- Public Conveniences at Tourist Centres
- Refurbishment of Monuments/ Heritage Buildings and Improvement of their Environs
- Development of Pilgrim/Tourist Centres and Major Tourism Projects.
- Adventure Sports